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Linedancer

Linedancer Magazine Awards

The Event of the Year

Meet the world's favourite line dance personalities including Scooter Lee and Joe Thompson



EXCLUSIVE REPORT

Worlds VII



God Blessed Texas

with Music & Dance

plus another

14 Exciting Dances

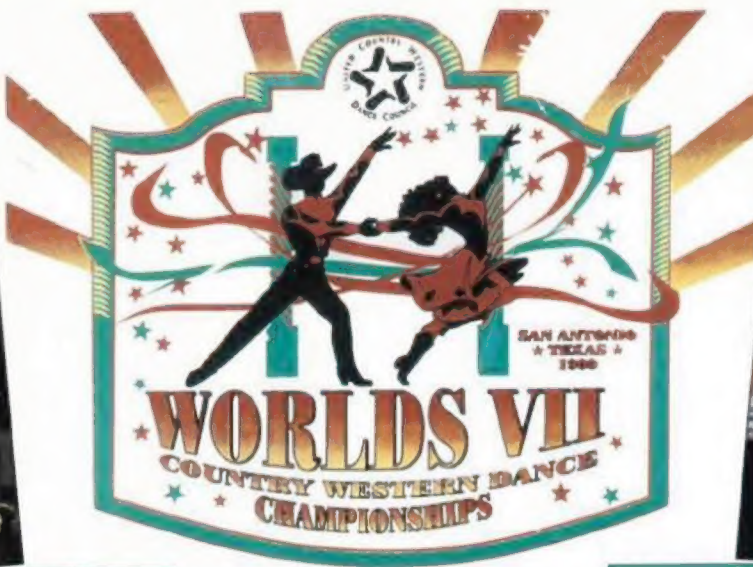
for you to learn this month



The monthly magazine dedicated to line dancing



Jamie Davis - World Female Superstar Champion 1999



Pedro Machado - World Male Superstar Champion 1999

San Antonio, Texas was a beautiful and appropriate location for the Worlds VII Championships. Its world famous battle site, the Alamo, stands proudly in the heart of the city giving testimony to the courage of 189 Texans including Davy Crockett, Jim Bowie and Colonel William B. Travis who battled courageously for 13 days against 4,000 Mexican troops lead by General Santa Anna.

Today the battle scene was to take place in three ballrooms and this time the battle was for Worlds VII dance titles contested by 1,000 competitors with another 4,000 dancers in support.



The picturesque riverside walks, peaceful boat rides, pleasant restaurants, shops and

bars were all dressed in Christmas finery. Millions of twinkling lights and miles of tinsel greeted you at every turn, covered every tree and festooned every building creating the warmest welcome for the dance invaders who had travelled from all over the world in the hopes of conquering titles.



Proud to be taking twenty-three Contestants from the UK pose for the camera after the awards ceremony
 nine 1st place, nine 2nd place and eight 3rd place trophies to their friends, families and fellow dancers back home.



STARS OVER TEXAS

Paris based Maureen Jessop takes a personal look at Worlds VII, the jewel in the crown of competitive line dancing.

Sitting here in front of my computer, jet lagged, my head is still full of the impressions and images of the biggest and best representation of the dance form we love. The UCWDC World Championships, known as Worlds VII was held in San Antonio, Texas from December 30 to January 3. No doubt we all take home with us different memories but I would like to share these impressions with y'awl...

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

- I love San Antonio. It has to be the original Tex-Mex town. Ironically enough it was the American defeat at the Alamo that led to the State of Texas eventually wresting the area from the Mexicans. Descendants of both 'sides' seem to live happily enough alongside each other and as just many Hispanics can be seen visiting the Alamo as Americans.

MOTIVATION

- Being a mediocre social dancer, I attend competitive events to network with the people I only get to see at these events and, living in a foreign country, to speak English! Another reason to attend Worlds is to help promote the First French Championships to be held in Paris on 2 - 4 July 1999.

BIGGEST SURPRISE

- The biggest surprise of the weekend occurred on the very first day. After visiting the Linedancer stand and saying hello to Betty, her husband Mike and the others, I literally bumped into



They danced through the streets of San Antonio stopping only for a quick group pose for the camera

FUNNIEST MOMENTS

- Bumping into part of the British contingent down on the famous Riverwalk area and heading off to the British pub 'Mad Dogs'. The contingent consisted of Steve Brain, Tina Neal, Katriona Wiles, Johnny Twostep, fellow Linedancer journalist



Flag-a-lyng these supporters know how to give encouragement

Martin Lister and their various family members who proceeded to take the place by storm, practising their competition numbers on the floor much to the bemusement of the clientele!

PROUDEST MOMENTS

- National pride came to the fore watching my British drinking chums showing in their various competitions that in line dancing British is about the best around. Tina, Johnny, Steve and Martin showed that maybe everyone should practice in the pub!
- Proud to see that Linedancer Magazine also held pride of place. The Americans were very complimentary on the layout, format and content of our favourite magazine.
- But most of all I was proud to see a floor full of dancers of all shapes and sizes, ages, abilities and having fun



This is the man who makes it all happen, Mike Haley, Event Director UCWDC pictured looking relaxed and happy with four time World Champions Robert Royston and Lauren Baldwin



After the New Year Variety Show, Scooter Lee and Liz Clarke joined an impromptu line up for a good ol' sing song



Happy New Year hats were the order of the day

a couple who used to dance with us in Paris, way, way back. Deborah Cohen (USA) and Philippe Tulula (France) later started the first C&W dance club in the Lille area, New Steppin' Country. The couple now live in Dallas so the surprise meeting brought back many memories for all of us. What a small 'World'.



The Masters Competition - Now called the 'Superstars' Division and attracting a fantastic line up of five males and one female who showed exactly how they had qualified for this prestigious division. Left to right are: Robert Ingenthron, Pedro Machado, John Robinson, Jamie Davies, Roy Verdonk and Scott Blair.

ASTONISHING MOMENTS

- The heights C&W dancing has reached. The talent of the top instructors as they danced with many different partners in the Pro-Am divisions. How do they find different routines for each



How much pleasure can you get on one face?



Johnny Twostep in line form dancing from the heart for his World title student.

- The top class spotlights from former Masters dancers Tony and Yvonne Gutsch and Laureen Baldovi and Robert Royston in the Saturday Night Variety Show. Not to mention the perfect co-ordination of the young Dutch dancers Tom Mickers and Roy Hadisubroto in a perfectly matched duo number.



Ros Brander-Stephenson, a sensation with the crowd and taking first in Showcase Diamond Division & Classic Intermediate Diamond

The Champions and Masters Couples competition, with breath taking performances from the new World Champions, Canadians Gary McIntire and Lisa



The dynamic duo from the Netherlands, Roy Verdonk and Tom Mickers bringing the house down with a duo demo in perfect sync!

Richardson, their astonishing speed and spectacular routines won them first place.

- An equally astonishing performance from reigning World Champion line dancer Pedro Macado in the new Superstars Division. His perfectly executed and funny routine left no doubt that he was a superstar!

MOST TOUCHING MOMENTS

- Meeting again Larry and Laurie Sepulvado for the first time since Laurie's terrible road accident which has left her with permanent brain injury and loss of short term memory, not to mention various physical handicaps.
- Four time World Champions, Robert Royston and Laureen Baldovi announcing their retirement from competition. Robert said goodbye to everyone with great emotion in his voice and wished good luck to the new Masters Champions, recognising their amazing talent.

BIGGEST GRIPEs

- The event was too spread out. The line dance competitions, vendors and the Couples competitions and all of the workshops were held two city blocks apart over two busy roads which made it difficult to catch up with people and to choose activities.
- Tight scheduling meant some top instructors missed their workshops due to judging or competing in Pro-Am.
- The spotlights on the Couples competition floor were far too strong, which meant having to wear shades!
- Personal Gripe - Not being able to afford \$300 for a rhinestone belt!



Kelly Ann Green 'first footing' into a Worlds competition

LASTING MEMORIES

- Having fun with people I have got to know over the years. Barry Durand and fiancée Kathleen Brand, his partner Lisa Austin and her friend Sam West. Charlotte Skeeters and Jo Thompson. Scooter Lee, who showed a new dimension in her voice by singing 70's favourites, Jeff Bartholomew, the now retired founder president of the UCWDC, Stella and Rick Wilden, Liz Clarke, Ilona, Alan Livett, Rob and Michelle Fowler, Mark and Tracy Courtney and Rosemary.
- Seeing in 1999 with the fireworks in downtown San Antonio and dancing at the Far West Saloon.
 - The amount of interest shown in The First French Country Western Dance Championships and the inspiration we got from Worlds to make it a special event.



Judges in a judges huddle - it wouldn't be a competition without one!



CHAMPIONS ALL THE WAY



Action packed routines thrilled the audience

No fewer than 54 individual World Champion titles were to be won at Worlds VII and twenty three World Champion belt buckles and cups were awarded to British line dancers. Eat your hearts out Glenn Hoddle and Alex Stewart. When the reckoning had been done and the honours tallied it was a draw between Europe (UK, Holland, and Sweden) and North America (USA and Canada) - 27 all. Linedancer's **Martin Lister** was in San Antonio, Texas, to compete - modesty, of course prevents him mentioning his own World Championship title- and admire the high standard of line dancing at Worlds VII. This is his view.

San Antonio was awash in purple and gold as competitors and dancers arrived. The City was hosting the Alamo Bowl, an end of season football final between the purple clad Kansas State University "Wildcats" and the golden Purdue



Ready...aim...fire! This is Fire & Ice who obviously enjoyed putting the judges in the firing line

"Boilermakers" from California. The sun shone. The thermometer hit the mid 20s Centigrade and the aroma of competition hung high, as the City prepared for its next major event - Worlds VII.

The audience at the New Year's Eve Gala show witnessed an enthralling exhibition of Shag dancing by US National Shag champion Sam West, partnered by Lisa Austin, and Dutchman Roy Verdonk teaming up with compatriot Tom Mickers to perform their sharp and precise duo routine Get in Line.

Robert Royston and Lauren Baldovi demonstrated why they have been Masters Couples champions for the past four years. But times change the Canadians Gary McIntyre and Lisa Richardson heralded in a new era by narrowly pushing into second place Cody Melin and Resa Henderson, who were penalised when both of Resa's feet lost contact with the floor. In Couples dancing, North Americans predominate, but there are high hopes for more international involvement in the future. Siobhan Dunn and Scott Lawley were not only individual line dance winners but also took the Classic Couples Junior Youth division title. Other British couples

placings came from Jonathan and Tina Montgomery who were placed 5th and Aiden Montgomery dancing with American Tabitha Bowles placed 4th in Classic Couples Junior Teen.



Well rehearsed, well dressed and looking the part



Hands, knees and bumps-a-daisy!

New Year's Day opened the line dance competition, with the mandatory Competitors meeting at 10am, the release of the Classic divisions music at 11am, and the start of competition at noon. Newcomer, Novice and Intermediate divisions danced first. Each division were asked to perform all their first dances before progressing, which resulted in a prolonged gap of almost an hour and a half between each of the four nominated dances. Due to the number of



competitors, the programme schedule had to be extended. But adrenaline levels remained high and the advanced division dancers kept their cool, despite shuffling on the edge of the floor for nearly six hours before they could exhibit their skills.

AND THE RESULTS WERE ...

Carron Douglas and Lee Easton both won their Classic Novice Teen divisions. Johnny Two-step, now recovered from the recurrence of his collapsed lung, won Showcase Diamond. Alan "AC" Clarke, in Classic Advanced Open adult, matched Rob Fowler's 4th place at Worlds VI, but was pushed into 5th place in Showcase Open adult by Steve Brain in 4th and Allan Hocking in 3rd. The top accolade, however, must go to Carina Clarke from Liverpool, who took over Jamie Davis's mantle as Classic Advanced Open adult World Champion.



Congratulations Carina Clarke - World Female Advanced Champion, the highest award achieved by any British dancer

Allan Hocking took Classic Intermediate Open adult, and his predecessor Steve Dunn securing Classic Advanced Crystal. This completed a three hat trick - concurrent World Champions across three generations of the Dunn family, securing Classic World Championship Titles with seven year old daughter Siobhan and his father Michael, respectively taking the Advanced Primary and Advanced Silver divisions. This record is unlikely to be exceeded, except by themselves perhaps as Steve's wife Yvonne and mother Kathy are both world class dancers.

Suzanne Pinder captured both Classic Advanced and Showcase Teen titles, ahead of strong British opposition from Jodie Binsteed and Bernadette Carmichael. Chris Brocklesby from Wales gained the Classic Intermediate Teen title ahead of Jonathan Montgomery. Other Classic line dance World Champions crowned were George Thompson (Intermediate Gold), Mike McChord (Novice Youth), Kellie Ann Green (Intermediate Teen), Holly Cooper (Intermediate Youth), Sarah Mellor (Novice Youth), Cheryl German (Novice Diamond) and Patricia Hardy (Novice Silver).

Ros Brander-Stephenson also hit the double with expressive performances to gain 1st overall in both Classic Intermediate Diamond and Showcase Diamond, then adding an impressive 4th place in Renegade.





Are they the next generation Robert and Lauren? - Siobhan Dunn and Scott Lawley are the first British couple (Bless 'em) to win a World title in Couples dancing.

TROPHIES GALORE!

God Blessed Texas was the "surprise, surprise" Renegade music. Departing from the long established "hear the music and dance" and a different piece of music for each heat, a 'more level' playing field was set with the music played at 11am, and the heats starting at 'high' noon. There will be many debates as to

the merits of this, but it did make for a great competition. Excellent interpretation and technique was displayed, though not

necessarily at the same time or in the same order. Johnny Two-step lost his hat as he cartwheeled across the floor, but he retrieved it elegantly. Alan Clarke studied the inside of his hat as the lyrics blasted out "I've seen some pretty faces". Steve Brain pulled numerous muscles as he arose from the splits and was last seen on the massage table. Best of the Brits was Lee Easton, who was rewarded with 3rd Place as he combined both theatre and precise footwork to produce a superb performance. Tom Mickers, Classic Advanced and Showcase Teen champion also won the choreography competition with his dance "Blyte", with 2nd place going to "Conrado Cha Cha" by Superstar" Rob "Ironman" Ingenthron.

Brain Barakauskas from Chicago has been the discovery of the year. After line dancing for just ten months, he has progressed from

Newcomer to Advanced and landed two titles - Classic advanced male open adult and Renegade. He has yet to turn his attention to Showcase, but his talent should see him to join line dancing's elite before long.



Cheryl German and Mary Lynch 1st & 2nd respectively in the Female Diamond Novice Division



The new line dance event director Randy Schotts from Portland, Oregon handing Kelly Ann Green the prize of her life!

On the final Sunday, the Superstars took to the floor with two individual Showcase routines and a solo medley. Jamie Davis won the Female title while the five strong male competition was hard fought. Dutchman Roy Verdonk landed third behind John "Dangerous" Robinson and eventual Winner Pedro Machado. It was a fitting climax to the five hard days and nights of social and competitive dancing. Good things always have to end but then it's only eleven months 'til Nashville in 2000.



FOOTNOTE

Footnote: Martin Lister danced to a World Champion's Belt Buckle winning the Classic line d a n c e Intermediate Diamond division. It was sweet revenge as he beat Mike Givans from Indiana, who had pipped him at the post in the 1998 World Championships in Nashville.



Put it there pal! Winner of the Renegade Division, Brian Barakauskas receives warm congratulations from runner up Lee Easton. In the background Tom Mickers in 2nd place can't hide his smiles.



All smiles from the young men who stole the show in the Teen Advanced Division. From left to right 5th Aiden Montgomery, 4th Philip Grace, 3rd Jamie Smith, 2nd Roy Hadisuburo and in 1st place Tom Mickers.



Three of a kind working on the full house, the ladies of the Silver Novice Division. Patricia Hardy, Joanne Dry and Catrina Johansson



FOR YOUR SCRAPBOOK



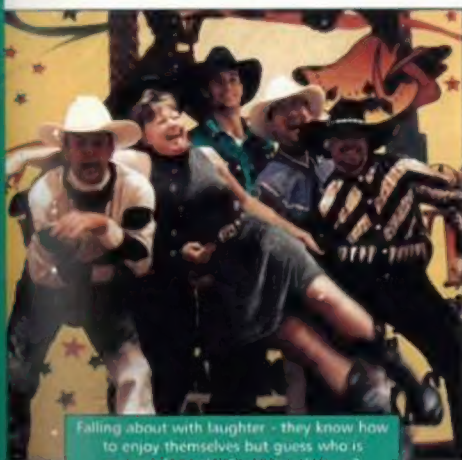
The Posse from Oppawa Ontario. Deborah Hoeg, Rhonda Nadon, Mary Lou Barley all from Ontario with Vickie Tyo from Masena, NY (the team tell us she is really a 'Camerican')



'Mopping-up' dancefloor - Robert Royston and Lauren Baldov



Ed Lawton and his Stoke Stompers had one 'ell of a good time!



Falling about with laughter - they know how to enjoy themselves but guess who is missing from the Superstars line up?



Happy people (including our own Martin Lister) relaxing at the Mad Dog's pub.



George Thompson with Dominic Montgomery representing the oldest and the youngest competitors and proof that line dancing brings all ages together.



Wildcat Rodeo - the scene of the New Year's Eve party



They say 'Ve are vrom Stockholm'. A total of 15 Swedes came in support of five competitors. They have been dancing together for one year. Here we see, Gullan, Tommy, James, Lars, Enz, Malte, Missa, Vicki, Annbritt and Joakim



A riverboat ride through the romantic San Antonio River